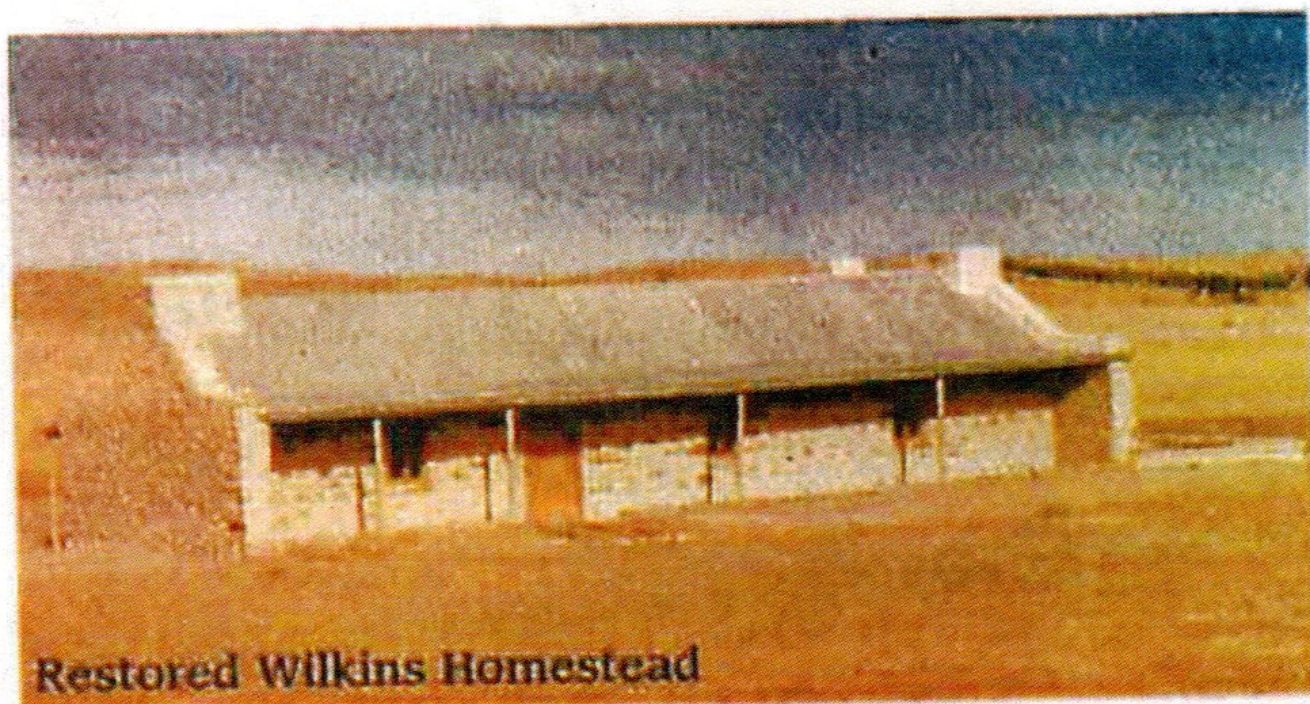


*Introducing*

# **Sir Hubert Wilkins**



The homestead was offically opened on  
April 29th 2001 by Dick Smith



Restored Wilkins Homestead

## From Dusty Plains . . .

Mt Bryan East borders the eastern plains, and is just within the line of rainfall navigated by George Goyder, indicating limited rainfall.

Early pioneers believed that the rain would follow the plough, and in the late 1800's the area was home to many families, with strong sporting teams, such as cricket and football.

The fickleness of the rainfall theory was soon to be proven and today there are very few residents as is evidenced by the ruins that remain.



## . . . To Polar Ice

Sir Hubert's first Antarctic expedition was in 1920-21 and was followed by the initial flight by man across the Arctic sea, and the first around the world flight by airship.

In 1931 his attempt to navigate the "Nautilus" submarine to the North Pole under the ice failed due to an unsuitable vessel.

Another Arctic Voyage in 1939 mapped new land and his expertise was retained by the US Army teaching survival skills to their soldiers, eventually exploring the Arctic for the ninth and final time in 1957.

Replica of original aircraft owned by Sir Hubert Wilkins



## From Rubble and Ruins . . .

Over the years the Wilkins homestead fell to little more than a pile of rocks, a very common sight in the area today.



## . . . To Restoration

Discovery of the ruins of the homestead by Dick Smith in 1993 saw the formation of a local committee who, enthused by Dick began the mammoth task of restoration to the home's original design. An archeological dig revealed the original floor plan (see back cover)

Supported by Australian Geographic, and its subscribers, and the local committee fundraising through four highly successful functions (Twilight Jazz Affair) the funds required were raised and building restoration began in 1999.



## From Childhood . . .

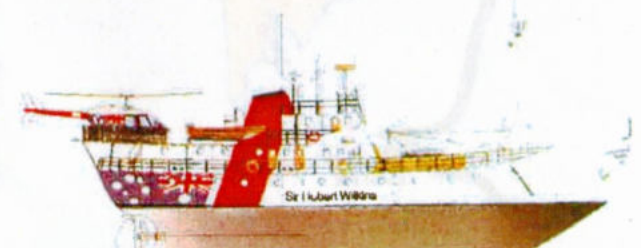
As the youngest of 13 children, George Hubert (son of Harry and Louisa) as he was baptised had plenty of peers, however his enquiring mind was unrivaled, and his days at the Mt Bryan East school were filled with a great yearning to increase his knowledge. Living in the harsh climate that he did, he became interested in the weather patterns that were to have a great influence on his life.



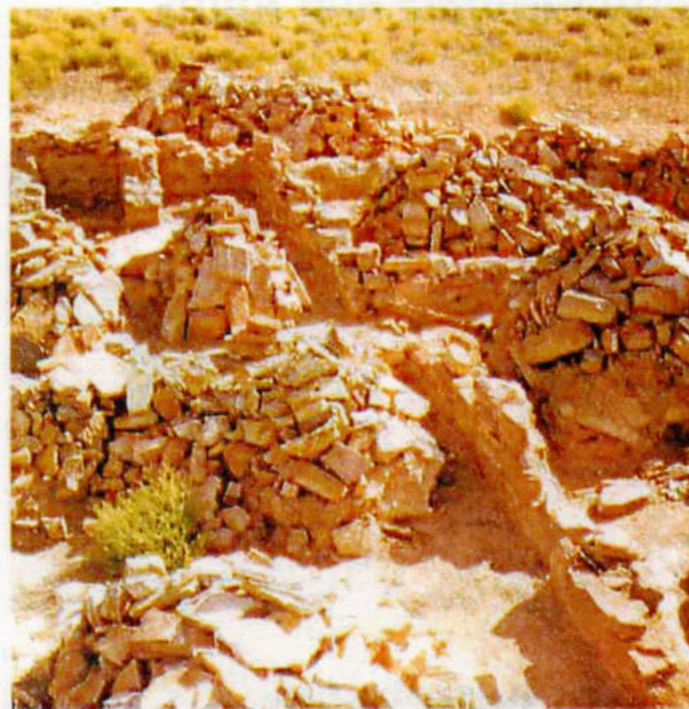
## . . . To Knighthood

Although most of his adult life was spent in the Northern Hemisphere, Sir Hubert retained his Australian citizenship. As a result of his contribution to meteorological sciences and his polar expedition he was knighted in 1928.

After his death, in recognition of his achievements it was proposed to inter his body in Westminster Abbey, however at the request of his wife, Lady Suzanne Wilkins, his ashes were scattered at the geographical North Pole by crew of the nuclear submarine "Skate".



Current Antarctic Survey Vessel



To visit the restored home of Sir Hubert Wilkins, and his family, a key can be obtained for a small fee at **THE "HALLETT" GENERAL STORE.**

If you wish to visit out of normal trading hours please phone and make arrangements to collect the key.

Ongoing improvements are continually taking place by the local committee, who are committed to this project and who are interested in your comments.

#### — Acknowledgments —

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Mr Dick Smith  
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Mr D Chilman (Archeological dig)  
Mr N Schiller (Builder)